

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents.

16. (Four Times Amended) The kit of claim 48, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecules are produced synthetically and in at least two separate synthesis batches.

18. (Four Times Amended) A method of detecting the presence or absence of a subspecies of bacterium *Salmonella enterica*, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing at least one isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9 and SEQ ID NO: 10 and the complement of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9 and SEQ ID NO: 10;
- (b) contacting the at least one isolated nucleic acid molecule of (a) with a test sample containing nucleic acids;
- (c) hybridizing and/or amplifying the nucleic acid molecules of the test sample with the at least one isolated nucleic acid molecule of (a); and
- (d) detecting nucleic acid hybrids formed between the nucleic acid molecules of the test sample and the at least one nucleic acid molecule of (a) and/or detecting amplified nucleic acid molecules of the test sample, thereby determining the presence or absence of a subspecies of the bacterium *Salmonella enterica* in the test sample.

20. (Thrice Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the amplifying of the nucleic acid molecules of the test sample is carried out by a polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

Please add the following claims:

--49. (New) The kit of claim 48, wherein at least one isolated nucleic acid molecule is modified or labelled with a group selected from the group consisting of a radioactive group, a colored group, a fluorescent group, a group for immobilisation on a solid phase and a group allowing an indirect or direct enzyme reaction.

50. (New) The kit of claim 49, wherein the group allowing an enzyme reaction is selected from the group consisting of antibodies, antigens, enzymes, substances having an affinity for enzymes and substances having an affinity for enzyme complexes.

51. (New) The kit of claim 48, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule is single stranded.

52. (New) The kit of claim 48, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule is double stranded.

53. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the subspecies of *Salmonella enterica* is selected from the group consisting of *Salmonella enterica* subspecies *enterica*, *salamae*, *arizonae*, *diarizonae*, *houtenae*, *bongori* and *indica*.--

Please cancel claims 7, 10-12, 17, 21, 22, 24-26 and 28-43 without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents.